TREASURE STATE HEALTH

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G. D. CARLYLE THOMPSON, M. D., EXECUTIVE OFFICER | APRIL, 1957

Regulation No. 91 Revised

Revisions of Regulation No. 91, Governing Environmental Sanitation of Schools, have been adopted by the State Board of Health.

This regulation spells out upon what conditions the Board can approve the construction, repair or enlargement of all school buildings as required by a law passed in 1913 (amended in 1921 and 1947). This law applies to all school buildings either publicly or privately owned or operated in the State.

The regulation deals with heat, light, water, sewage disposal, sanitation and other environmental factors. It includes minimum requirements and suggestions for bringing about more optimal conditions in order that Montana school children may benefit from a more healthful school environment. Copies of this revised regulation will be available on request by May 1 to school authorities.

Montana Population Estimated at 675,000

Montana's population is now estimated at 675,000, according to figures released by the State Board of Health office of Vital Statistics. This represents a 14.2% population gain for the state since the last federal census (1950).

This population estimate is based on the 1956 state-wide school census of all persons under 21 years of age. This age group represented 37% of the total population, the 1950 U. S. census revealed.

Montana's population has increased approximately 84,000 since the 1950 census.

Thirty-eight Montana counties showed population gains. Yellowstone's 17,925 increase is the greatest. Cascade county increased 16,273 and Silver Bow shows a gain of 11,178.

Eighteen counties lost population. The greatest population declines are Lake county's 1,835 and Custer's 1,261 loss.

Percentagewise, Mineral (44%) county shows the greatest gain and Wibaux (16%) the greatest loss in population since 1950.

Maternal, Newborn Institute Planned; June 9-12, Helena

An Institute for Maternal and Newborn Care is planned for physicians and professional nurses, June 9, 10, 11 and 12 in Helena.

The four-day institute will be at the Western Life Building. The registration fee is $15.

Institute Requested

Representatives of the Montana League for Nursing, the Montana Medical Association Maternal and Child Welfare Committee, the Montana State Board of Health, and the Montana State Nurses' Association are planning the institute in response to requests from Montana physicians and nurses.

To Review Trends

It is intended the institute will provide an opportunity for physicians and nurses to review trends and new concepts in medical and nursing responsibilities for maternal and newborn care. The objective is to aid the physician and the nurse to "better meet the needs of the mother and baby by utilizing all of the available resources."

Out of state program participants will include:

Pediatric Authority

Dr. James B. Arey, Philadelphia, pediatric pathologist, Temple University and St. Christopher's Hospital.

Gertrude Church, Denver, nursing consultant, U. S. Children's Bureau.

Dr. William P. Given, New York, Dept. of Obstetrics, New York Lying In Hospital.

Vera Keane, New York, Instructor-Supervisor in Obstetrics and Gynecology, New York Hospital School of Nursing.

Planning Committee

The committee planning the institute, and the organizations they represent, is composed of: Mrs. Mary Munger, Helena, M.S.N.A., Chairman; Dr. Katherine Dawson, Helena, M.L.N. & S.B.H., Co-Chairman; Miss K. Elizabeth Anderson, Helena, S.B.H.; Miss Frances Davidson, Helena, S.B.H.; Dr. Frank J. Friden, Great Falls, M.M.A.; Dr. Maude M. Gerdes, Hardin, M.M.A.; Dr. Earl L. Hall, Great Falls, M.M.A.; Sister John Marie, Butte; M.S.N.A.; Miss Eva Meisdalen, Malta, M.S.N.A.; Miss Hazel Nordstrom, Helena, M.S.N.A.; Miss Daisy Prentice, Helena, S.B.H.; Mrs. Io-Anne Rogers, Butte, M.L.N.; and Miss Christine White, Great Falls, M.L.N.

Reduced Budget 1957-58 Adopted

A tentative budget of $880,225 was adopted by the State Board of Health on March 28. A budget item of $30,000 to provide virus laboratory services on a limited basis was retained even though the total amount budgeted is $105,000 less than that submitted for legislative consideration. However, six of the professional positions in the proposed budget were eliminated.

$939,739 Current Budget

The budget for the current year is $939,739. This includes $78,000 federal funds for the purchase of polio vaccine which terminates June 30, 1957. The tentatively planned program budget is $20,000 more for the next fiscal year. Of the $880,225 tentative budget, $413,000 is State money and the rest is Federal. In addition the budget will include approximately $1,200,000 Federal construction grants for hospital, medical, and sewage treatment facilities in Montana.

Virus Laboratory

The purchase of virus laboratory equipment and supplies costing approximately $60,000 was initiated last year and is being completed during the current year. This will become a part of the present bacteriological laboratory when it is moved into its new quarters in the new State Laboratory Building. This development was possible through Federal Hill-Burton funds and other grants for this purpose.

Montana State Library
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Wilder and Stephenson Head Advisory Committee

Dr. Winfield Wilder of Great Falls was elected chairman of the Narcotic and Alcoholism Advisory Committee to the State Board of Health at a meeting of the committee held in Helena last month. Alex Stephenson of Helena was elected vice-chairman. Dr. Wilder, a psychiatrist, represents the Montana Medical Association and Mr. Stephenson represents the Montana Highway Patrol on the committee.

The membership of the Advisory Committee is composed of representatives from business; farm and industry; educational, religious and social agencies; law enforcement; voluntary and official public health groups and professional health organizations; and from groups controlling or distributing either alcoholic beverages or drugs.

Studied Alcoholism

Several years ago the committee studied the problem of alcoholism in Montana and made recommendations for an over-all program for the prevention of alcoholism which included education, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.

Proposal Not Adopted

This proposal has not been adopted by the Montana legislature to date and a new subcommittee was appointed to revise the original proposal. Those appointed are: Dr. Robert Spratt, representing the State Hospital, Warm Springs; Dr. G. D. Carlyle Thompson, representing the State Board of Health; Gene Picotte, representing the Montana Bar Association; Edward Hooper, representing the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation; Mrs. Maxine Homer and Lee Irelan, all of Helena.

Teen-Age Drinking Discussed

The legal aspects for the control of teen-age drinking were discussed with representatives from law enforcement groups; Gene Picotte, Alex Stephenson and Roy Sieffert who represented the Helena Police.

To Review Laws

The Chairman requested the subcommittee on Alcohol and the Teen-Ager, of which Mrs. Dorothy Simmons, Helena, is chairman, (1) to compile a review of the laws now on the statute books relating to alcohol and the teen-ager; (2) develop a proposal for a structure to spearhead a program in which juveniles assume more responsibility for self-control in carrying out the laws regarding juveniles and drinking.

The need for continued education of both professional and public groups was emphasized.

A report was made of a conference on Alcohol and Alcoholism set for this spring in Great Falls under sponsorship of the College of Great Falls and State Board of Health with local agencies and organizations participating in the planning. Plans are also underway at Rocky Mountain College for a Midland Empire Institute of Alcohol Studies next winter in Billings.

Air Pollution Study by USPHS Includes Montana

Air particulate matter is being collected by the State Board of Health in cooperation with the U. S. Public Health Service National Air Sampling Network Community Air Pollution Program.

The atmospheric samplings are taken every two weeks with a "Hi-Vol" air sampler running for twenty-four hours atop the State Laboratory Building in Helena. Benjamin Wake, State Board of Health Industrial Hygiene Engineer, is in charge of the sampling operation in Helena.

Collected On Filter

Air is drawn into the sampling equipment by a high speed fan. Particles are collected in the filtering unit on a filter sheet of glass fiber. The fibers are smaller than one micron in diameter.

When removed from the sampler, the filer papers are sent to the U. S. Public Health Service Sanitary Engineering Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, for chemical and physical examination. Findings of these examinations are reported back to the State Board of Health.

Part of Network

"The Helena air sampling operation is a part of a network of sampling sites in the U. S. and its territories," Wake points out. "These units are operated by volunteer cooperators representing some local agency.

Reflects Trends

"Results of the USPHS analyses are returned to the agency operating the equipment. The findings are also used by the USPHS for compilation, statistical analysis, and as the basis for publications showing nation-wide trends and correlations."

The objectives of the network are to assemble basic data on the nature of the pollution of the air, to show trend with time, geographical variation, and the influence of topography, population, climate, industry, and other variables. A secondary objective is to provide data against which epidemiological findings may be correlated in future disease studies.

SAMPLING MONTANA AIR — State Board of Health Industrial Hygiene Engineer, Benjamin Wake, is pictured inserting a clean filter in a "Hi-Vol" Air Sampler atop the State Laboratory Building in Helena. Atomspheric particulate matter collected on the filter will be sent to the U. S. Public Health Service for laboratory examination as part of Montana's cooperation in the U.S.P.H.S. National Air Sampling Network in a Community Air Pollution Program.

Fallout Information

While radioactive fallout surveillance is not one of the primary objectives of the network, it is expected that such information will be included in the findings. The Atomic Energy Commission maintains a nation-wide surveillance network that supplies fallout data to the USPHS and state and local health departments.

Aid Pollution Study

Wake pointed out that Montana's participation in the USPHS Air Pollution Program will develop important information that will be of aid in evaluating natural and man-made air pollution in the state. "Also, it will provide some basic information for industries, that require critical (low) air pollution factors, interested in locating in Montana," Wake said.

Fluoride In Lewistown Water Aids Dental Health

The natural fluoride content of Lewistown's water supply is accredited for the lower dental decay rates among the children of that community as compared with communities with water supplies containing no fluorine.

Laboratory examinations show that Lewistown's water supply has a fluorine content of 0.5 parts of fluorine, per million parts of water.

Dental Examinations

A recent clinical dental survey of Lewistown grade-school children revealed that their dental disease rate is lower than that for children living in communities using water that contains no fluoride. The clinical examinations were made by local dentists with the assistance of volunteer workers, in cooperation with the State Board of Health Division of Dental Health.

32.8% Fewer DFM

Findings in the Lewistown survey, compared to the statistics developed from a similar study in Polson revealed that six-year-old Lewistown children had 32.8% fewer decayed, missing and filled deciduous (baby) teeth than the six-year-olds in Polson. Polson's community water supply contains no fluoride.

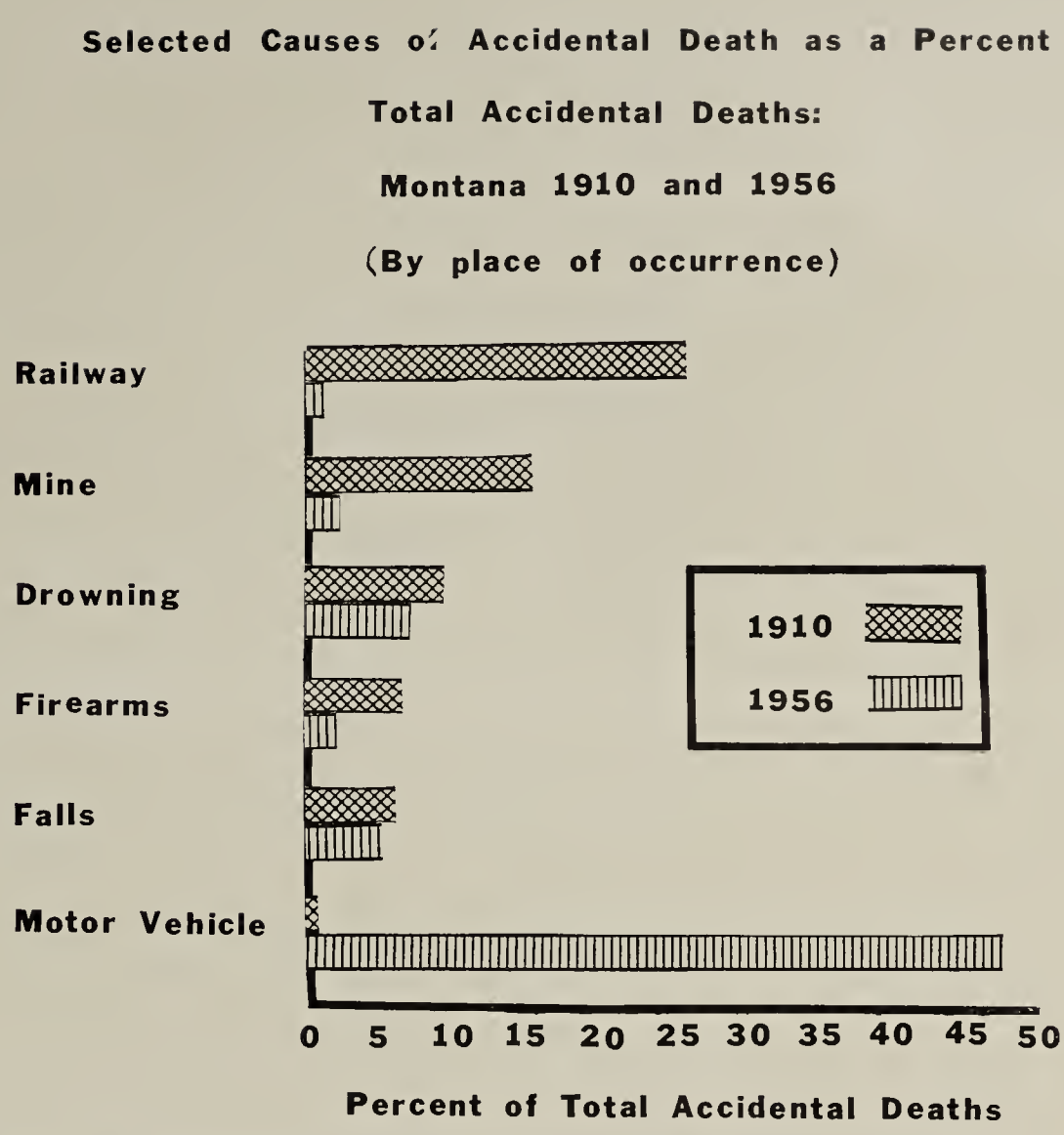
A comparison of the findings in ten-year-olds in both towns revealed that Lewistown children had 47.8% fewer decayed, missing and filled permanent teeth than the children in Polson.

Lower Decay Rate

"This lower dental decay rate can be credited to the natural fluoride content of Lewistown's water supply," Dr. Allen T. Willis, Director of the State Board of Health Division of Dental Health, has pointed out. "If Lewistown were to supplement the fluoride content of its water to the optimum level of 1.0 (fluorine parts per million parts of water), even greater dental health benefits could be observed."

In Miles City, which also has approximately .5 ppm natural fluoride in its water supply the dental decay rates are comparable to those of Lewistown. On July 13, 1955, Miles City started to add fluorine to its water supply to bring it up to the optimum level of 1 ppm in order to obtain the maximum benefits for the children in their community.

In explaining the Polson, Lewistown and Miles City studies, Dr. Willis pointed out that the surveys were made to determine the dental needs of the two communities and "to include as much dental health education as possible to children, teachers and parents of the children examined."



Accidental Deaths Claim 607 Lives In Montana in 1956; Highest Since '36

The 607 accidental deaths recorded in Montana is the highest in 20 years, the State Board of Health office of Vital Statistics reports.

Motor-vehicle deaths were the leading cause of accidental deaths. The second high classification was accidental deaths in home, followed by accidents at work.

Since the State Board of Health started recording accidental deaths in 1910, more than 25,000 lives have been claimed by accidents. This is equivalent to the approximate population of Lewis and Clark County (1950 census: 24,540).

Only four years accounted for more accidental deaths than 1956. There were 695 accidental deaths in 1916; 870 in 1917; 625 in 1918; and 660 in 1936.

There were 42 accidental deaths (7%) attributed to drowning and 13 to firearms (2%).

The 0-4 age is most susceptible to accidents. This age group is closely followed by the 25-44 age group and the 45-64 age group, in that order.

For children under 4, the home is of greatest danger. Of the 48 accidental deaths under 4, 8% (23) of them were in the home.

Mark These Dates: Meetings Conferences

April 5-6—Montana Section American Water Works Association, Great Falls.

April 8-9—Second Conference on Rehabilitation Services, Helena.

April 26-27—Montana Public Health Association, Havre.

May 16-18—Montana Tuberculos Association, Billings.

May 20—Montana Health Planning Council, Helena.

May 29-June 1—Western Branch American Public Health Association, Long Beach, California.

June 9-12—Institute for Maternal & Newborn Care, Helena.

Tuberculosis Therapy, Case Finding Is Topic For Medical Lectures

Dr. Edward Kupka, Berkeley, California, will present a series of eleven post graduate extramural refresher medical lectures to local medical societies in April on "Recent Advances in Therapy and Case Finding in Tuberculosis."

This is the fourth in a series of courses sponsored by the MMA, its component societies, the State Board of Health and private health agencies in specific fields: syphilis diagnosis, cancer diagnosis, heart disease diagnosis and Dr. Kupka's presentation. This series is being financed jointly by the Montana Tuberculosis Association and the State Board of Health.

Arrangements for the presentations are handled by local medical societies. The schedule for Dr. Kupka's lectures on tuberculosis therapy and case finding is:

APRIL

8—Missoula, Western Montana Medical Society.
9—Anaconda, Mt. Powell Medical Society.
10—Kalispell, Flathead County Medical Society.
11—Helena, Lewis and Clark Medical Society.
12—Bozeman, Gallatin County and Park County Medical Societies.
13—Miles City, Southeastern Medical Society.
15—Shelby, Northcentral Medical Society.
*16—Wolf Point, Northeastern Medical Society.
17—Lewistown, Fergus County Medical Society.
18—Great Falls, Cascade County Medical Society.
19—Havre, Hill County Medical Society.

(*Tentative; the lecture may be presented in another town in this area).

Dr. Kupka holds an M.D. degree from Wayne University and an M.P.H. degree from Johns Hopkins. His experience includes five years in private medical practice in Detroit, 10 years in tuberculosis sanatorium work and 15 years in tuberculosis control work. He recently returned from an assignment with the World Health Organization in Indo-China and has just completed a paper on tuberculosis for the Italian government.

He is a lecturer at the University of California School of Public Health, holds specialty board diplomas in internal medicine and preventive medicine and is a fellow of American College of Physicians, American College of Chest Physicians and American Public Health Association.

Public Warned Of Worthless Cancer Treatment

A recent public warning issued by the Food and Drug Administration points out that "the Hoxsey treatment for internal cancer has been found worthless by two Federal courts."

The public announcement by FDA warns that "Those afflicted with cancer should not be misled by the false promise that the Hoxsey cancer treatment will cure or alleviate their condition. Cancer can be cured only through surgery or radiation. Death from cancer is inevitable when cancer patients fail to obtain proper medical treatment because of the lure of a painless cure, 'without the use of surgery, X-ray, or radium' as claimed by Hoxsey."

Worthless

The FDA statement explains that Harry M. Hoxsey has contined to promote this worthless cure for more than 30 years, notwithstanding numerous local and state court actions. Federal action became possible only as a result of a supreme court decision in 1948.

Thousands Deceived

"Over the years thousands of persons have been deceived by the false claims for the Hoxsey liquid medicines and pills. These consist essentially of simple drugs which are worthless for treating cancer, yet the Hoxsey treatment costs $400 plus $60 in additional fees."

The FDA after conducting a thorough investigation of the Hoxsey treatment and the cases which were claimed to be cured reported, "that not a single verified cure of internal cancer by this treatment has been found."

'Cures' Debunked

The investigation covered Hoxsey "prize cures" about which testimony was given in court. FDA debunked these claimed "cures" by showing that all of them fell in three categories: (a) the patient never had cancer, (b) the patient was cured or adequately treated before going to Hoxsey, (c) the "cured" patient died of cancer or still has it.

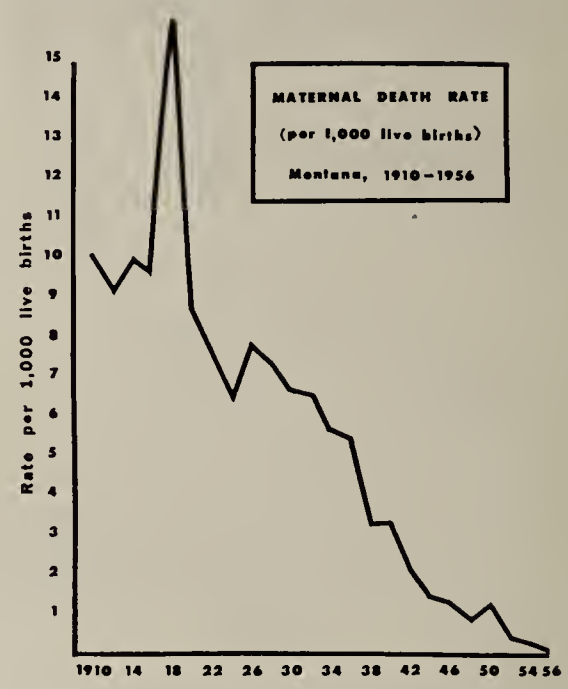
Over 46,000 Hoxsey Warning Posters, issued by the FDA, are now being displayed in post offices throughout the country. Copies of the warning are being sent to county and city health departments and are being posted on bulletin boards of hospitals throughout the country.

Births Reach Record High; Montana Maternal Death Rate Of 1956 Is All-Time Low

The 17,480 births of 1956 is the highest number ever recorded in Montana, the State Board of Health office of Vital Statistics reports.

Last year was the third consecutive year that more than 17,000 births were reported in Montana.

In reporting a summary of provisional vital statistics the office of Vital Statistics also pointed out that the maternal deaths in Montana dropped to an all-time low in 1956. The two maternal deaths last year set Montana's rate (per 1,000 live births) at 0.1, one of the lowest in the nation.



While the number of infant deaths (under 1 year) climbed to 491 in 1956, the infant death rate (per 1,000 live births) of 28.1 was the fifth lowest in the state's history. Only 1954, with a 23.0, 1955 with a 25.3 rate, 1951 with 26.7, and 1952 with 27.2, had lower infant death rates. The 491 infant deaths last year represents an increase of 58 over the number recorded in 1955.

The 6,457 deaths last year is the highest number recorded in Montana since the 8,985 deaths of 1918 and the 6,589 deaths of 1917, years of the influenza outbreak. Deaths occurred last year in Montana at a rate of 9.6 per 1,000 population, compared to a rate of 9.3 for the two previous years.

Treasure State Health
MONTANA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Sister Capriola
St. Vincent's Unit
Sisters of Charity Sch. of Nursin
Billings, Montana

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